



The Bulletin

November 2017



Past Present Future: what do we want from our High Street?

7.30pm Monday 27 November 2017

at the Community Church, Werter Road, London SW15 2LL

Putney High Street is the backbone of our community but is both a historic traffic route and the main retail hub.

All is not well, what with incessant traffic and serious air pollution compromising our experience. Plans have come and gone so the Putney Society Buildings Panel will examine the historical development of the High Street, the current challenges it faces and what plans are proposed by individual developers and agencies.

We are very pleased that Nicola Grant, Positively Putney manager, will talk about the new Business Improvement District (BID) and that Nick O'Donnell, Assistant Director of LB Wandsworth

Environment and Community Services, will also address the audience on the council's plans for the High Street. Putney Society's Heritage Officer Kate Pugh, Buildings Panel Convenor Andrew Catto and Deputy Chairman Jonathan Callaway will set out the context and issues. An open discussion will let the audience have their say too!

For the full programme see the Putney Society's website <http://www.putneysociety.org.uk/events>.

All welcome, non-members as well as Putney Society members (non-members £3).



STOP PRESS

Boundary Commission consultation

On 17th October the Boundary Commission published their latest proposals for reducing the number of parliamentary constituencies in London. Their plan for Putney is very radical – Roehampton, Putney Heath and Putney Vale move to Wimbledon Constituency and Putney extends further east towards Clapham Junction and south down the Wandale Valley. **The constituency will be renamed "Wandsworth and Putney"**. The link given below shows the extent of the changes. If you want to have your say about these proposals please go to www.bce2018.org.uk

Saturday Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market in Church Square, Putney (by St Mary's Church near the river) is going from strength to strength as more stalls have set up to create a go-to venue for great food from small independent traders. **Open from 10 am to about 3pm.**

Fish (Portland Scallop Co, now offer a 5% discount to Putney Society members and are also open on Wednesdays from 12 noon to 6.30pm), veg and fruit (Wild Country Organics, and Perry Court Farm), organic/raw milk, free range eggs (Court Lodge Farm),

organic meat and chicken (Picks Organic Farm), bread (Olivier's Bakery), cheese (Borough Cheese Company), pies and a variety of street food including Moroccan, Malaysian Pandan, Colombian, and German Sausage. Flowers too.



PUTNEY
Market

Buses - After 22 months, and following many nudges from the Society, TfL have finally re-installed a Countdown Indicator in the bus shelter outside Putney Station serving the 14, 85 and 93 buses.

Trains - South Western are consulting on their proposed timetable from December 2018 when extra capacity becomes available following the re-opening of the old Eurostar platforms at Waterloo. Subject to representations made, Putney is scheduled to have extra hourly services. Please look at the consultation on the SWR website – deadline is 23 December.

Transport Panel

Convenor:
Stephen Luxford
stephen.luxford@
nao.gsi.gov.uk

We are still endeavouring to get a representative from South Western to address a future Members Meeting to set out their plans for our line.

Services to date don't appear to have improved under the new regime with punctuality remaining a problem.

A revised, but little reduced scheme for the 'Levellers Court' site, where Putney High Street meets Putney Bridge Road, is now with the council, and is expected to go to committee in November. Sadly what we have seen so far suggests that the scheme is very little changed, and unlikely to find favour with us or the Mayor of London.

Close by we had noticed lights on in the old White Lion (more recently Yahoo), which now has temporary property guardians in residence. Does anyone know what's holding up the excellent scheme to turn this back into the hotel it once was? Or indeed why there's so little progress on the hotel that replaced the old post office on the Upper Richmond Road?

Further up the Hill, Putney High School is seeking to expand, pushing the numbers of pupils over 1000. There will be a new science and music block facing Carlton Drive, but their current application is only for the extra pupils (numbers are limited under an earlier consent) and for temporary classrooms. We have written to the council asking that nothing should be approved until the scale of the new buildings is revealed. But I have since learnt that it was the planners, not the school, who insisted on holding back the plans for the permanent building until they had approved the temporary works. Why? Surely the council should be planning long term on our behalf.

The long running issue here for most of the immediate neighbours is the traffic congestion caused when pupils are dropped off and collected by their parents. The school is now proposing a private bus service to reduce the numbers coming by car, but could this not have been put in to action sooner?

Buildings Panel

Convenor:
Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

020 8785 0077

Increasing house prices mean that more owners are trying to expand. Most stick to the back but a few seem to think that potential extra value overrides any consideration for the scale of our streets or matters like their neighbours' daylight. We don't always spot these coming, but are glad the council listened to our advice and turned down a scheme for a huge mansard loft extension on the front of two modest houses in Pentlow Street. Each street has a right scale, and this was not it.

Repairs to the river wall on the towpath from Beverley Brook to the Wetland Centre

The PLA will be removing old tree stumps and replacing revetment stones along the riverbank from November through to April 2018. The towpath will remain open but work sites will be protected. For more details of the work go to www.putneysociety.org.uk

FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

All members welcome
www.putneysociety.org.uk

COMMUNITY:
9 November (17.30)
14 November (18.30)
at 41 Norroy Road,
SW15 1PF
Convenor:
Vicky Diamond
vickysw15@aol.com
T:07746 022654

TRANSPORT:
14 November, at
29 Oxford Road (19.30)
12 December at 46 Disraeli
Road, SW15 2DS (19.30)
Convenor:
Stephen Luxford
stephen.luxford@
nao.gsi.gov.uk

BUILDINGS:
1 November,
6 December
At 154 Putney High Street,
SW15 1RS (19.00)
Convenor:
Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

OPEN SPACES:
9 November (19.45) at
28 Howards Lane
7 December (19.00) at
71 Norroy Road, SW15 1PH
Convenor: John Horrocks
John.horrocks10@
btinternet.com
T: 020 8789 2956

Dover House Road playing fields - disposal

The borough council is proposing to dispose of the Roehampton Playing Fields in Dover House Road. A 30-year lease with a sports development company is being negotiated which would mean that the management and development of the open space would be 'privatised'. An intensive-use commercial sports complex is contemplated. The proposal will be out for consultation in the near future - look out for the Public Notice in the Wandsworth Guardian. Our Panel will be following this issue closely and working with local residents and users of the playing fields to respond to the consultation. Please do contact the Open Spaces Panel if you have comments on this proposal.

Open Spaces Panel

Convenor:

John Horrocks
020 8789 2956

john.horrocks10@btinternet.com

Leaders Gardens - a 'dogs on leads only' open space?

There has been an interesting exchange of views on the Putney SW15.com Discussion Forum recently about the dangers posed to children from dog poo in Leaders Gardens on Putney Embankment. There can be no doubt that children and dog poo don't get on well together. Playing children ought to have priority in this little park - especially since there are much larger open space areas nearby, just over Beverley Brook, where dogs could run free. In Leaders Gardens, dog-owners really must clean up after their dogs have done what dogs sometimes do. Our Panel considers that, if Leaders Gardens were made, by the council, a 'dogs on leads only' open space, the problem might be resolved.

St Mary's Church will be opening their doors on Monday nights from the beginning of November for the Rough Sleepers. St Mary's is part of the Glass Door scheme which rotates venues for accommodating the homeless during the cold winter months. They have a doctor who visits on a fortnightly basis to give them medical checks. They don't need anything yet, but ask that we start putting aside warm clothes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, soap etc. We will let you know when they do require them and when and where to deliver them. Thank you.

Wandsworth Councils Community Service department has now put a person in place to support and revamp **Neighbourhood Watch**, which is good news, as it had become sadly neglected. If your street hasn't signed up to Neighbourhood Watch, perhaps you could sign up to be the co-ordinator? Or you could find a neighbour to do it? It's a very useful way of disseminating police information, and for getting neighbours to know each other. There's plenty of information online about it.

On 22 January 2018, we're going to be hosting a **Members Meeting on Recycling, Waste management and the circular economy**. The circular economy is a way to keep resources in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum from them whilst in use, and then recovering and regenerating products to give them an even longer life, thus circumventing waste. There's so much more that we, and Wandsworth could be doing to prevent such a huge amount of waste going to the incinerators and dumps, and that would help reduce CO₂ emissions and air pollution. We will be producing a guide to recycling which we hope to circulate in December.

Community Panel

Convenor:

Victoria Diamond
07746 022654
vickysw15@aol.com

And please don't forget – those takeaway coffee cups are **NOT RECYCLABLE!!** Millions are going to landfill. You can buy from any supermarket (and many coffee shops) cups that CAN be re-used. You just have to remember to take them out with you.

PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

See website for full details:
www.putneysociety.org.uk

Chair: Judith Chegwidden, 020 8788 4489
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London Environment Strategy

In the consultation document setting out proposals to improve London's environment, The Mayor of London has set a target to make more than half of London green by 2050.

Is there anything we can do as local residents?

Domestic gardens provide many people with daily contact with nature and improve the way residential areas look and feel. In total, they comprise about 38,000 hectares of land, or 24 per cent of the land area of London. However, not all gardens consist of classic combination of lawns, flowers beds, shrubs and trees. Many now include extensive areas of decking and paving. Consequently, only about 60% of land in London's gardens is actually green.

London: Garden City? – a study done to determine changes to London's domestic gardens – showed that the area of garden vegetation in London declined by over 3,000 hectares between 1999 and 2007. This was primarily due to permitted development rights which allow activities such as minor extensions and paving of driveways. As permitted development rights were extended in 2015 it is likely this trend has continued.

Keeping our gardens green is something we can effect as individual householders – a priority if we want sustainable wildlife and good drainage.

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/8314_gla_les_online_single_page.pdf

Dates for your Diary

We look forward to seeing as many Putney Society members as possible for the **litter pick up Putney Park Lane at 10:30 on Sunday, 19 November**. Please bring friends and family. We will meet at the Upper Richmond Road end and work our way up to the Putney Heath end. We will supply litter pickers, gloves and bin bags.

Litter picking is surprisingly enjoyable. It is not only a chance to keep Putney clean but is also a chance to meet new people from the Society and perhaps even join a celebratory networking breakfast at the end!

Make a note to keep **Saturday 13th January free** – this is the date for the Society's **New Year Lunch**. More details on the menu and location in the December Bulletin.

Digital Skills

We will be organising three seminars initially with the possibility of some follow up events. The seminars will be held in the afternoon in the Cromwell Room at St Mary's Church. All those of you that replied will be contacted individually with details of the scope of the three seminars and the dates.

LOCAL EVENTS

If you have an event you would like us to list please contact: chair@putneysociety.org.uk

Friends of Putney School of Art & Design will be having a **Christmas Fair** at the art school on **Sunday 3 December, 10am to 5pm**. Pottery throwing demos, family activities, art and craft stalls and food. More details next month.

A local Roehampton resident, Oskar OK Krajewski, is showing the accumulation of his five years' worth of work in sculpting and other works. The exhibition called **'Recycled Future'** on **1-5 Nov 2017, 11am-8pm** at the **Gallery @ OXO**, Oxo Tower Wharf,



Bargehouse Street, South Bank, London SE1 9PH. More details at ARTOFOK.COM.

Free entry, everyone is welcome.

Waterstones Putney

Meet the author events:

Oliver Jeffers

Saturday 11th November 15:30

The internationally acclaimed picture book artist will be signing copies of his new book *Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth*.

Just published!

A chance to meet the authors of "Putney Remembers the Men of the First World War" on Monday 6 November 18.30 to 19.30 at Putney Library, Disraeli Road.